

On page 1, line 2, please insert the following before

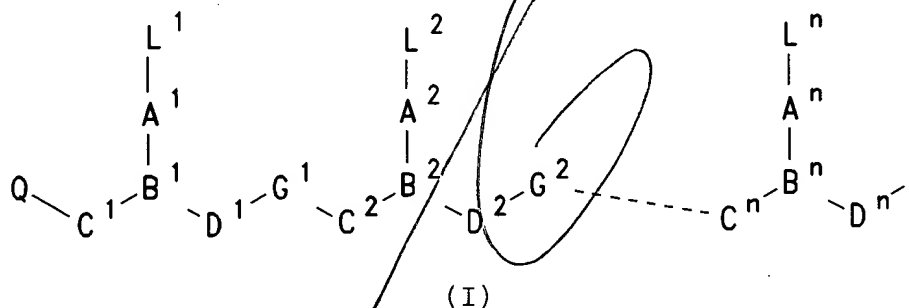
"FIELD OF THE INVENTION": --This patent application is a continuation-in-part of application Serial No. 08/595,387, filed February 1, 1996 (now U.S. Patent No. 5,773,571), which is a continuation-in-part of Serial No. 08/054,363, filed April 26, 1993 (now U.S. Patent No. 5,539,082).--

In the Claims:

Please cancel claim 22, add claim 25 in its place, and rewrite claims 12-14, 23, and 24, as indicated below:

In the first lines of each of claims 12-14, 23, and 24, please delete "claim 22" and insert therefor --claim 25--.

--25. A nucleic acid mimic in admixture with at least one target molecule selected from the group consisting of nucleic acids, transcription factors, carbohydrates and proteins, said mimic having formula (I):



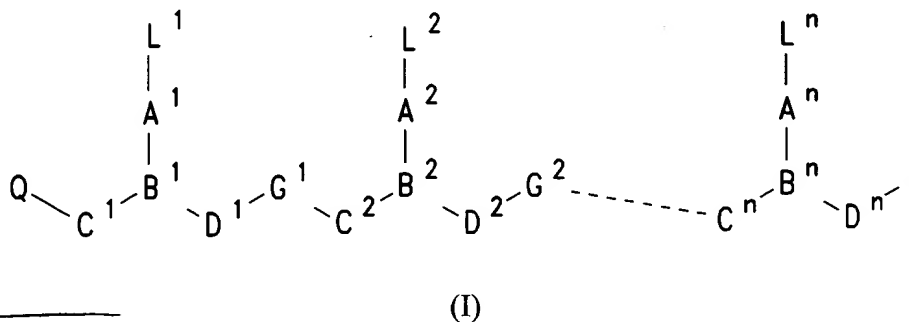
wherein:

In ~~claim~~ 14, line 1, please delete "claim 25" and insert --claim 26-- therefor.

In ~~claim~~ 23, line 1, please delete "claim 25" and insert --claim 26-- therefor.

In ~~claim~~ 24, line 1, please delete "claim 25" and insert --claim 26-- therefor.

~~-26.~~ A nucleic acid mimic in admixture with at least one target molecule selected from the group consisting of nucleic acids, transcription factors, carbohydrates and proteins, said mimic having formula (I):



wherein:

n is at least 2,

each of L^1-L^n is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxy, (C_1-C_4) alkanoyl, naturally occurring nucleobases, non-naturally occurring nucleobases, aromatic moieties, DNA intercalators, nucleobase-binding groups, heterocyclic moieties, and reporter ligands, at least one of L^1-L^n being said base substituted with at least one sterically bulky substituent;

each of C^1-C^n is $(CR^6R^7)_y$ where R^6 is hydrogen and R^7 is selected from the group consisting of the side chains of naturally occurring alpha amino acids, or R^6 and R^7 are independently

selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, (C₂-C₆)alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, heteroaryl, hydroxy, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy, (C₁-C₆)alkylthio, NR³R⁴ and SR⁵, where R³ and R⁴ independently are hydrogen, a conjugate, (C₁-C₄)alkyl, hydroxy- or alkoxy- or alkylthio-substituted (C₁-C₄)alkyl, hydroxy, alkoxy, alkylthio or amino; and R⁵ is hydrogen, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, hydroxy-, alkoxy-, or alkylthio-substituted (C₁-C₆)alkyl, or R⁶ and R⁷ taken together complete an alicyclic or heterocyclic system;

each of D¹-Dⁿ is (CR⁶R⁷)_z where R⁶ and R⁷ are as defined above;

each of y and z is zero or an integer from 1 to 10, the sum y + z being greater than 2 but not more than 10;

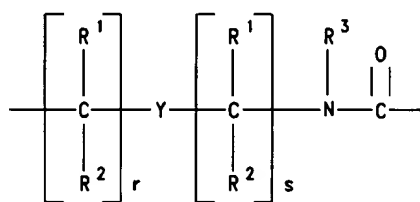
each of G¹-Gⁿ⁻¹ is -NR³CO-, -NR³CS-, -NR³SO- or -NR³SO₂-, in either orientation,

where R³ is as defined above;

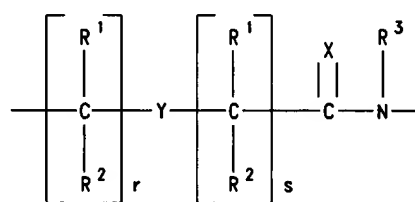
each pair of A¹-Aⁿ and B¹-Bⁿ are selected such that:

(a) A is a group of formula (IIc) and B is N or R³N⁺; or

(b) A is a group of formula (IId) and B is CH;



(IIc)



(IId)

where:

X is O, S, Se, NR³, CH₂ or C(CH₃)₂;

Y is a single bond, O, S or NR⁴;

each of p and q is zero or an integer from 1 to 5;